



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER, U.S. NAVAL FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND
PSC 901 BOX 10000, FPO AE 09805-0001

IN REPLY TO:

5800

N00

12 Feb 2019

FINAL ENDORSEMENT on (b)(6) ltr 5800 of 4 Feb 19

From: Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command
To: File

Subj: PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF VADM SCOTT STEARNEY

1. I have reviewed the subject report of investigation and find that the information contained therein is sufficient to make a line of duty determination in the subject case.
2. I concur with the findings, opinion, and recommendation in the subject report. I specifically find that VADM Scott Stearney's death was incurred in the line of duty and not due to his own misconduct.
3. A copy of this determination will be forwarded to Commander, Navy Personnel Command, Navy Casualty (PERS 00C).


JAMES J. MALLOY

Copy to:
PERS 00C

5800
4 Feb 19

From: (b)(6) USN
To: Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command

Subj: PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF VADM SCOTT STEARNEY

Ref: (a) JAGMAN, Chapter II
(b) Your ltr 5830 Ser N00 of 9 Dec 18
(c) My ltr 5800 of 19 Dec 18
(d) Your ltr 5830 Ser N00 of 20 Dec 18

1. This reports completion of the preliminary inquiry conducted in accordance with references (a) and (b) into the death of Vice Admiral Scott Stearney, USN, on 1 December 2018. LT (b)(6), JAGC, USN and LT (b)(6) JAGC, USN; USNAVCENT Deputy Assistant Force Judge Advocates, participated as legal advisors. All materials reviewed are on file with the originating office. Per references (c) and (d), an extension of time from the original completion date of 21 December 2018 was requested and approved for a completion date of 4 February 2019.

2. Personnel Contacted: Special Agent in Charge (b)(6), NCIS, Middle East Field Office, NSA Bahrain; Special Agent (b)(6), NCIS, Middle East Field Office, NSA Bahrain, DSN (b)(6); Special Agent (b)(6), NCIS, Middle East Field Office, NSA Bahrain, DSN (b)(6).

3. Materials Reviewed: NCIS Report of Investigation Control #: (b)(7)(A) Kingdom of Bahrain Ministry of Health Medical Notification of Cause of Death, DD Form 2064 Certificate of Death (Overseas) dtd (b)(7)(A) and NCIS Report of Investigation Control (b)(7)(A)

4. Summary of Findings: On 1 December 2018, VADM Scott Stearney, USN was on active duty, assigned as Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command. On the afternoon of 1 December 2018, VADM Stearney was found deceased in his personal residence located in Janabiya, Bahrain. Per materials reviewed, the cause of death was determined to be (b)(6) suicide. The timeline of events and witness statements support this conclusion, (b)(6), indicating his intent to commit suicide. No information uncovered during the subsequent NCIS investigation, including multiple interviews and forensic analysis of VADM Stearney's electronic devices, contradicted this finding.

5. Opinion: VADM Stearney's death occurred in the line of duty and was not due to his own misconduct. Per reference (a) paragraph 0218(b), all members are presumed to be mentally responsible for their acts unless a question of responsibility is raised; the investigation must then clearly and convincingly establish a member's mental responsibility before an adverse line of duty determination can be made. Per paragraph 0218(c), suicide creates a strong inference of a lack of mental responsibility which has not been overcome by any of the facts uncovered from this investigation; therefore, no adverse line of duty determination is recommended.

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6. Recommendation: VADM Stearney's death should be found to be in the line of duty and not due to his own misconduct and a finding to that effect should be entered into his medical record. No further investigation is warranted.

(b)(6)

